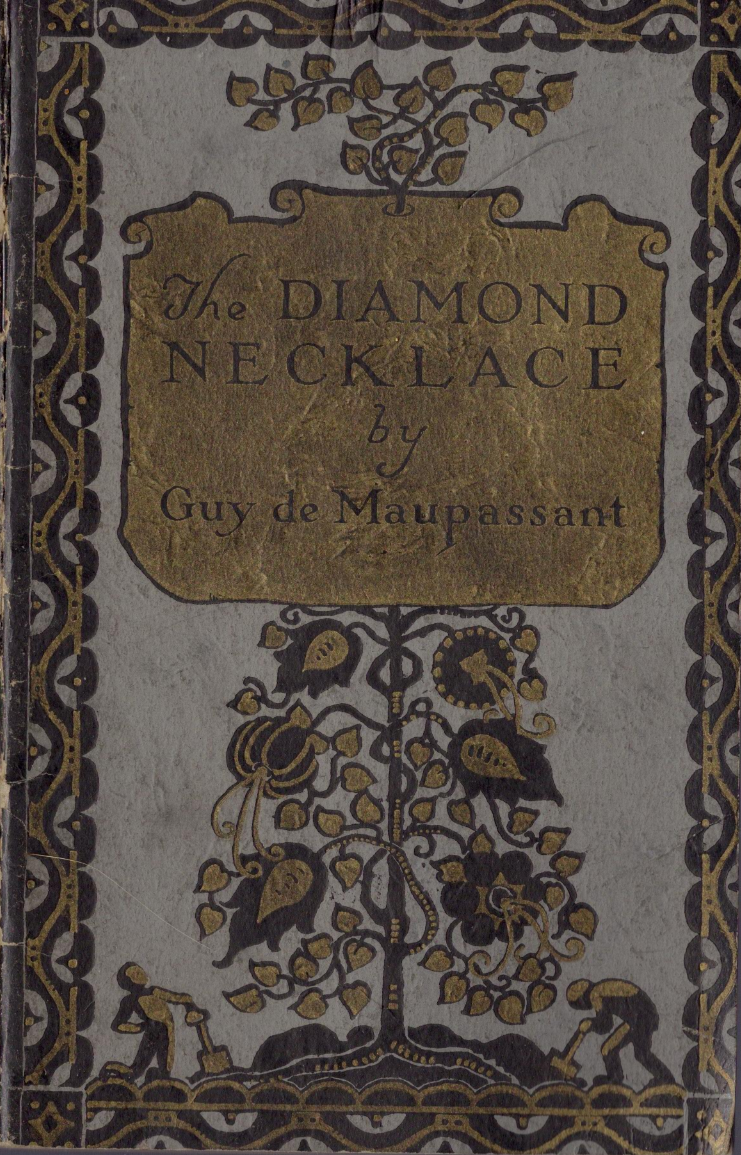

The DIAMOND NECKLACE

by

Guy de Maupassant

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GUY DE MAUPASSANT

Eleanor
Baskfield

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GUY DE MAUPASSANT

[1850–1893]

AN INTRODUCTION BY WILLIAM J. PELO

WITH the passing of Guy de Maupassant, the greatest story-writer of modern times ended his work and entered the great company of the immortals.

De Maupassant received his early training from Flaubert, whom he admired more than any modern writer, and of whom he once said, "he lent French writing divine grace and harmony."

His first printed story, "The Tallow Ball" (*Boule de Suif*), appeared in 1880, when de Maupassant was thirty. Thereafter he published in rapid succession volume after volume; in fact not a year passed, from 1880 until his death in 1893, that he did not add one or more volumes to his list.

In skill, in compactness, in plausibility of theme, de Maupassant has no equal. His stories will be read by an admiring public long after the writings of his contemporaries will have been forgotten. He wrote of the life which he saw and lived, and depicted characters of ordinary men which live in the memory of his readers.

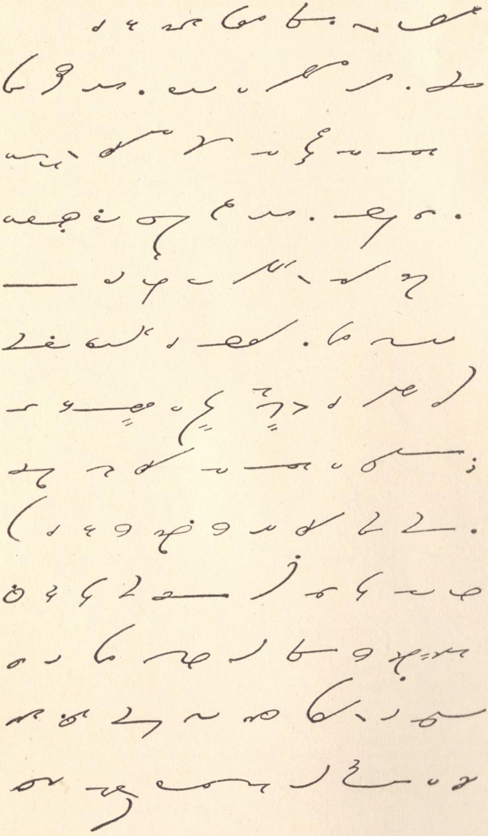
"The Necklace" belongs to that class of stories which are woven around a central idea. Of similar type are Edward Everett Hale's "The Man Without a Country," Hawthorne's "The Great Stone Face," Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," and Poe's "The Purloined Letter." Any story with a clearly-defined purpose may be called an idea story. In some stories of this class, the idea is only too apparent, as in "The Man Without a Country." But with "The

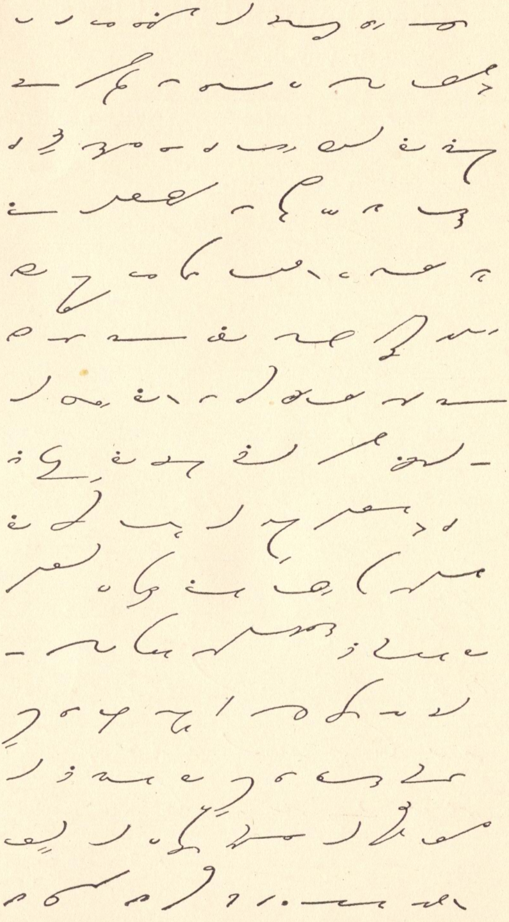
Necklace" it is possible that the interpretation of the story by any two readers might not coincide, although both ideas might have passed through the author's mind; for de Maupassant considered it to be poor art in writing to be too explicit.

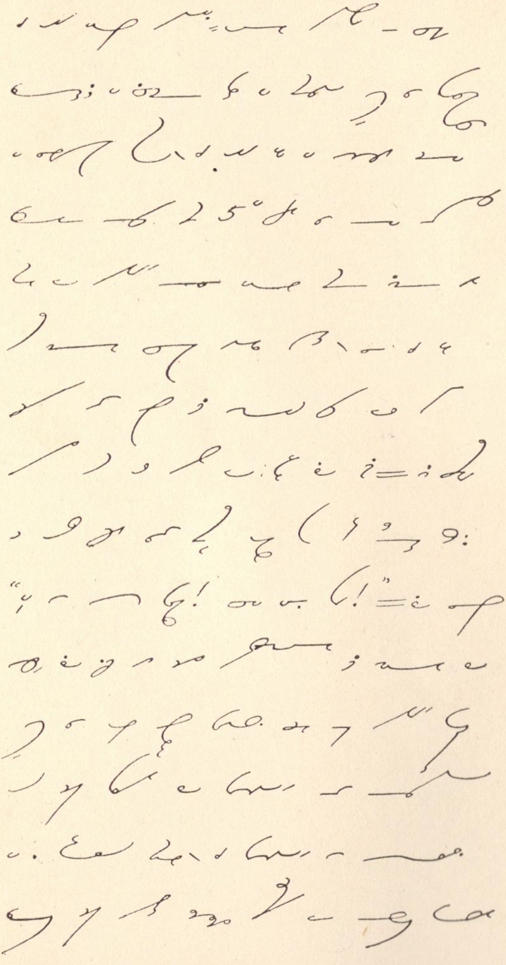
Many eminent authorities consider this the best short story written in modern times. It is an interesting story and is undoubtedly one of the finest pieces of literary constructive work in any language.—Editor.

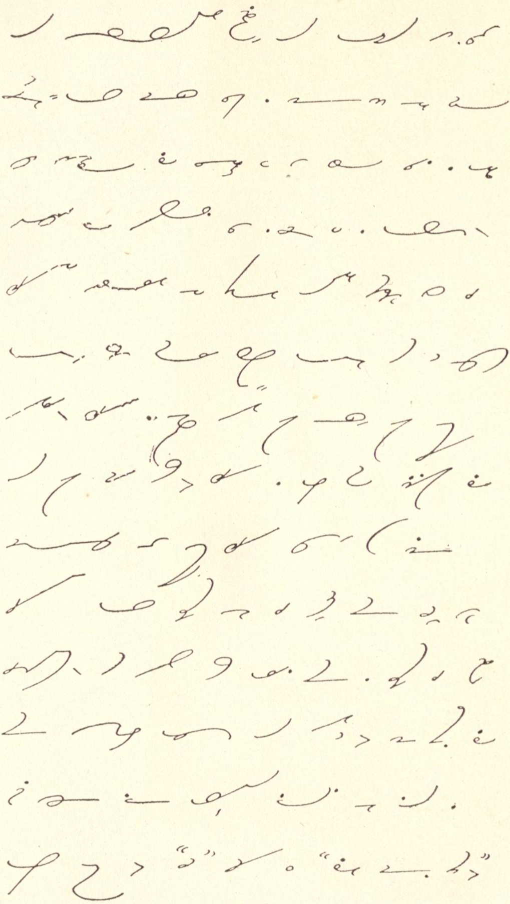
The Diamond Necklace

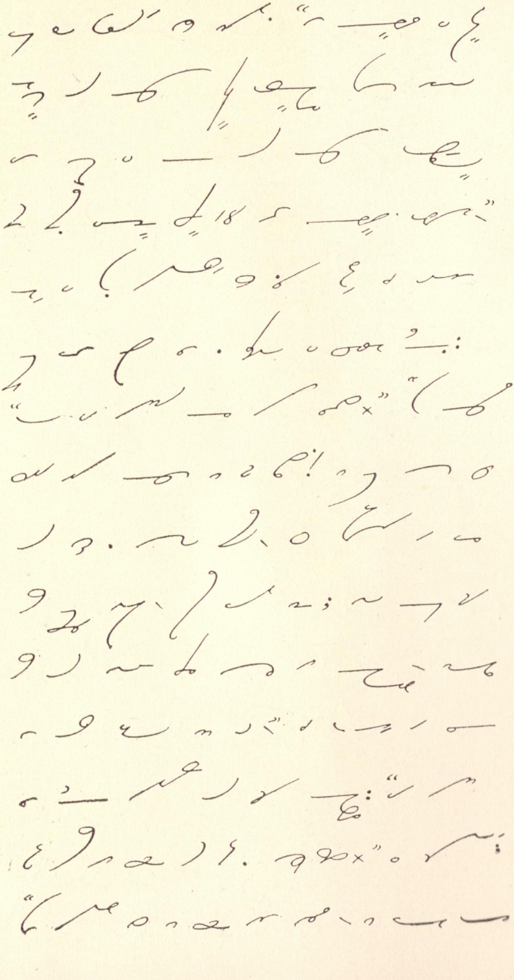
By Guy de Maupassant

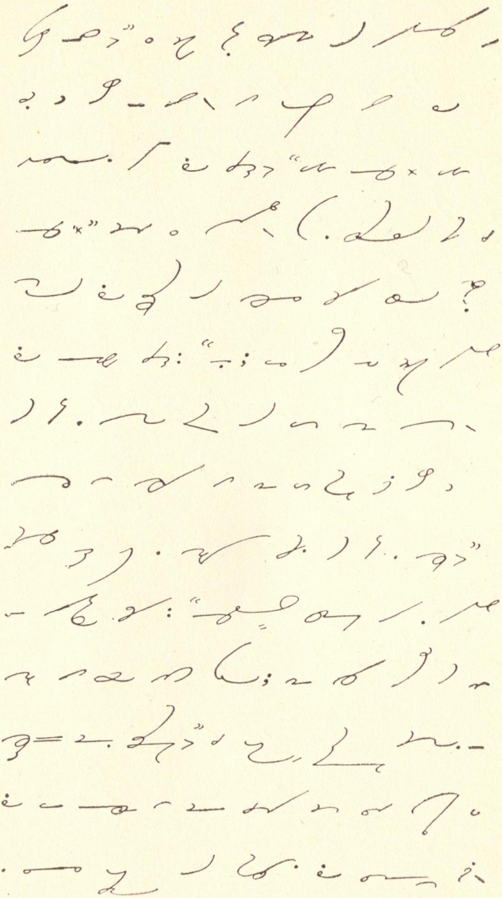


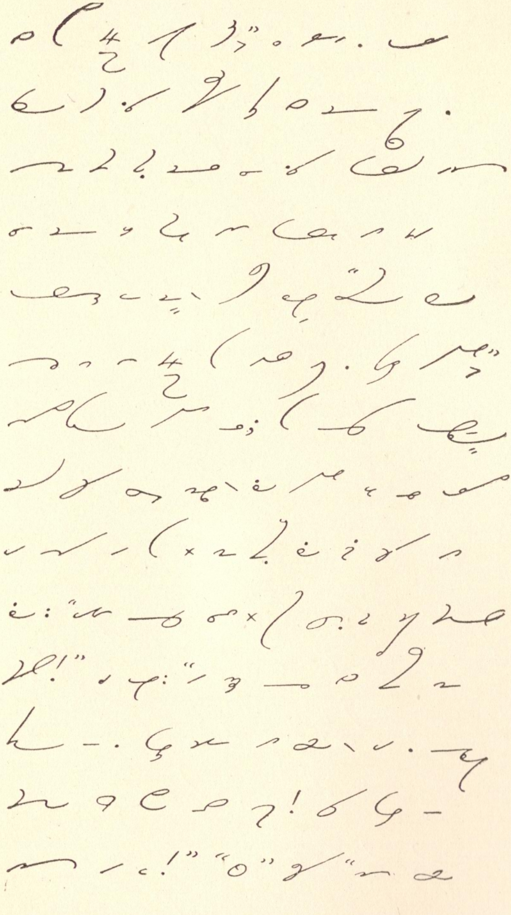


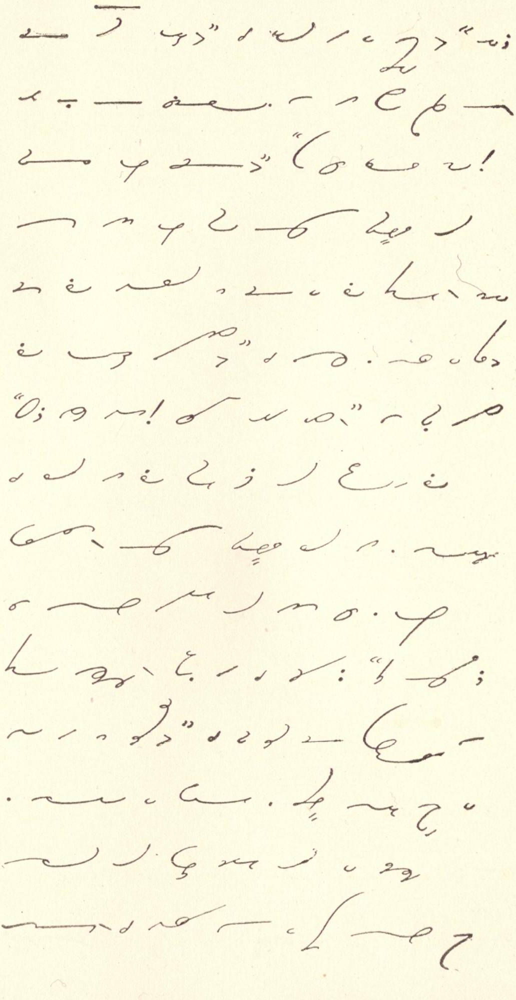


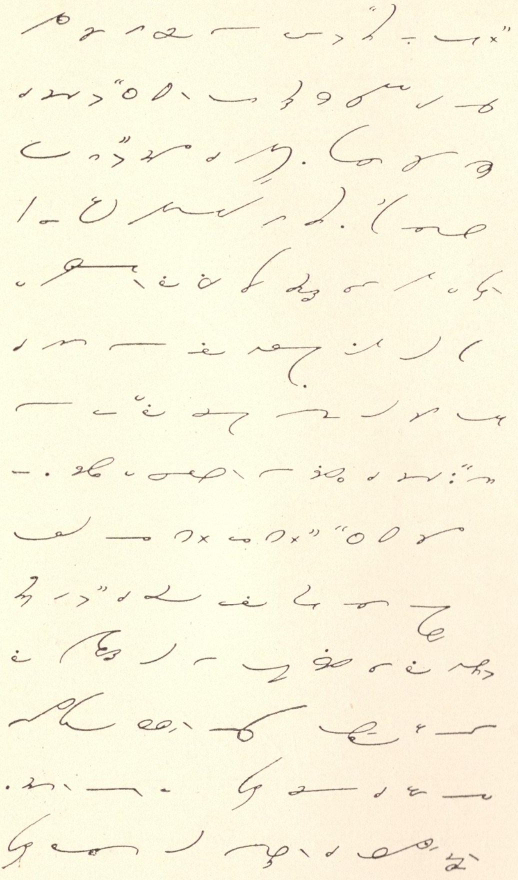


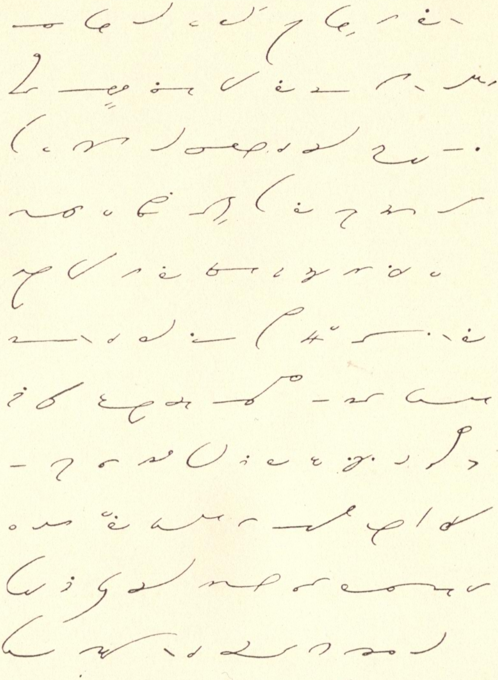


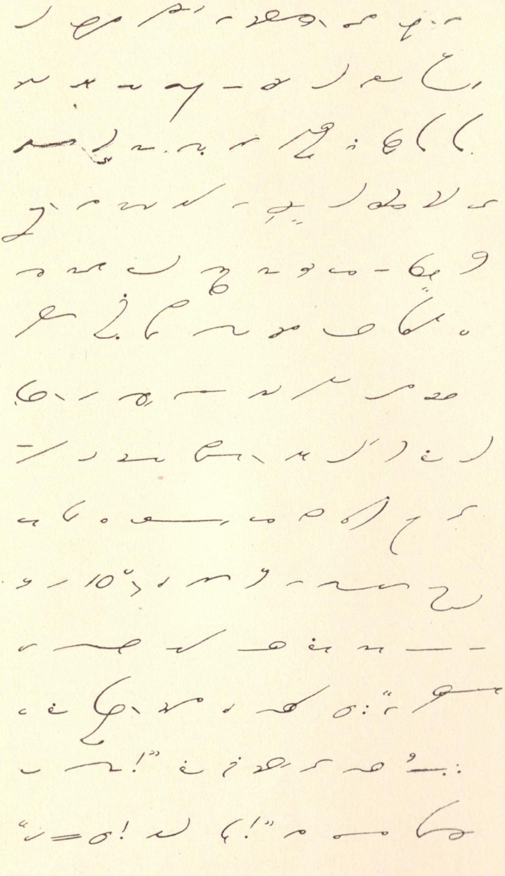


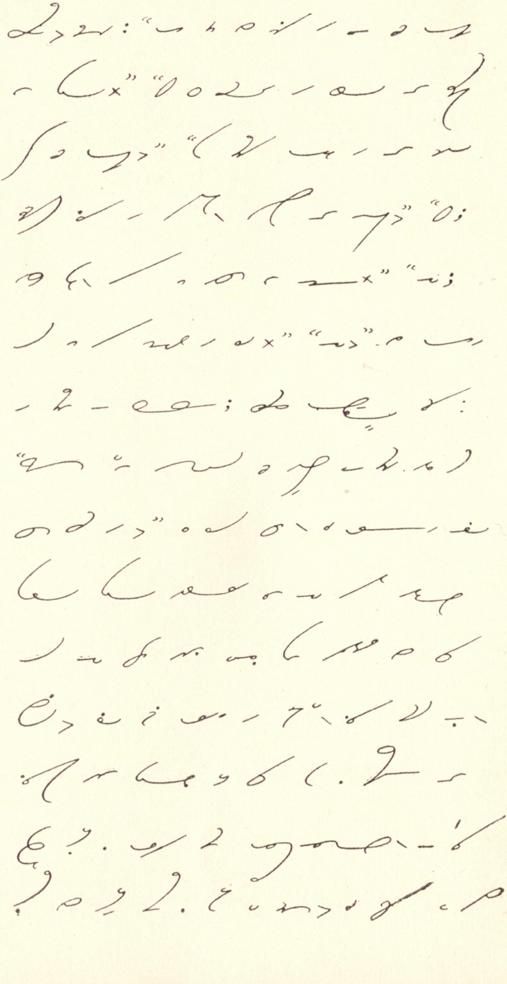


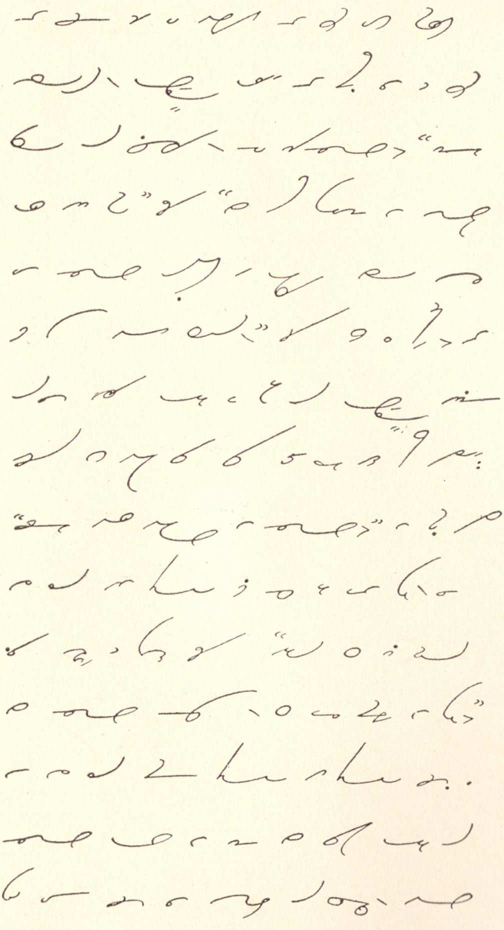


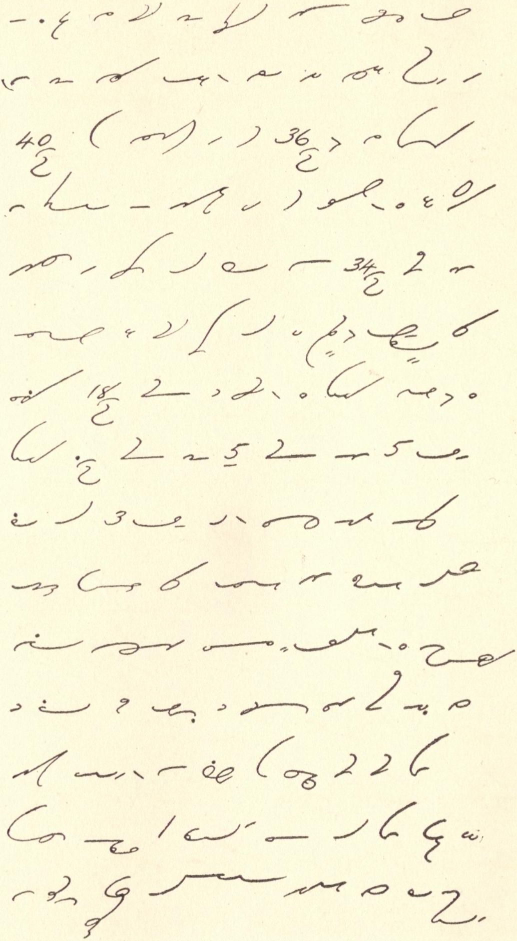


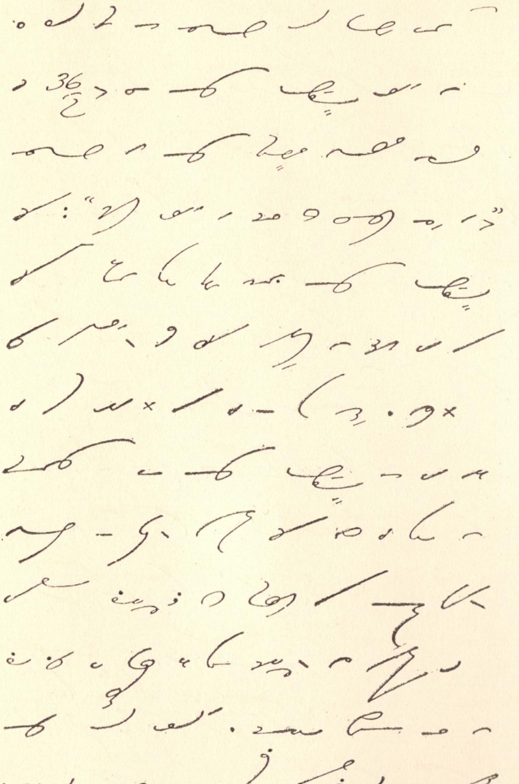


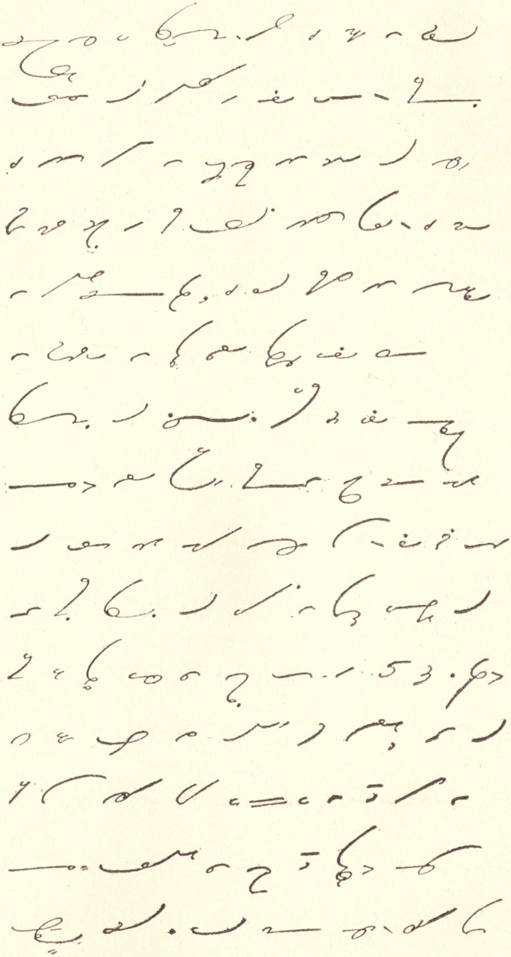


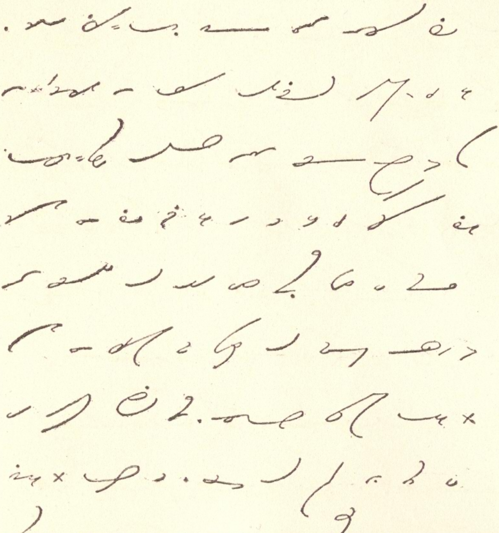


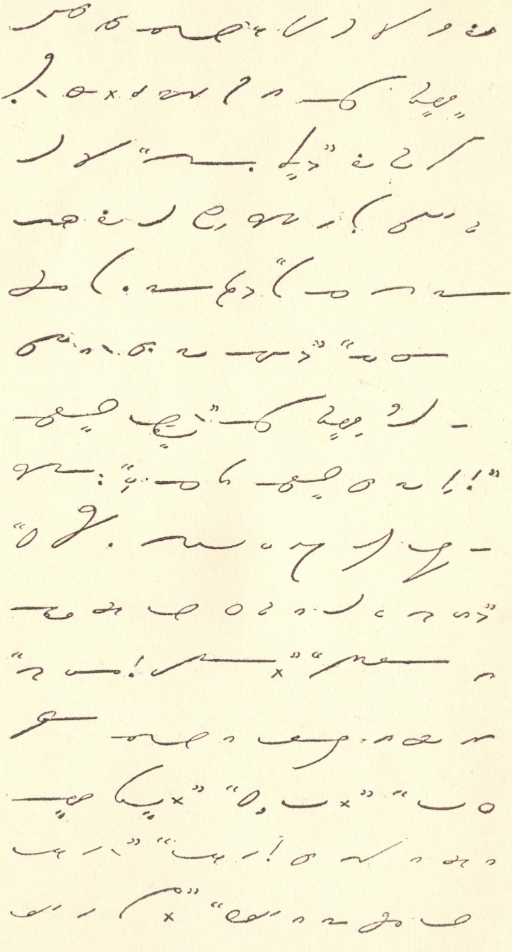


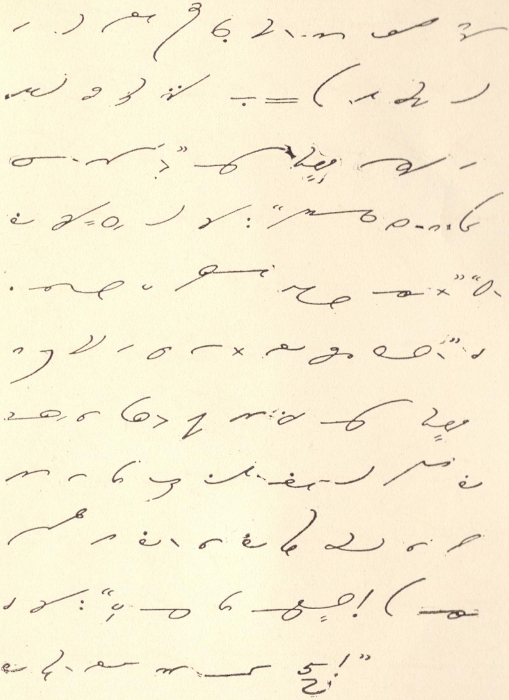












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